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Gorham Normal School

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THE ORACLE

VOL. 8

GORHAM NORMAL SCHOOL, GORHAM, MAINE, MARCH 18, 1938

No. 3

George Albert Has Lead In Noel Coward Play

An especially fine bit of character portrayal was exhibited at the presentation of the Dramatic Club's play, Noel Coward's "I'll Leave It To You." George Albert interpreted the role of Uncle Dan, the bombastic, fun-loving, penniless, millionaire brother of Mrs. Dermott, mother of a helpless brood of youngsters. Mr. Albert's work earned for him the enthusiastic applause of an unusually large audience.

Not only Mr. Albert, however, deserves credit. Every member of the cast—Grace Perry as the level headed sister; Jeanette Woodward as the budding poetess and novelist; Milton Chapman as the song writer and lover; William Carey as the typical English eldest son; Eunice Shevlin as the effervescent youngest member of the faculty; Frances Knight as the domineering mother with her rather helpless, spineless daughter, Evelyn Ward; and John Brush, efficient English butler—merits high commendation for good work.

Mr. Sloat, the coach, attributes much of the success of the play to the cooperation of the off-stage committees:

Continued on page two, Column three

Normal School Sponsors First Back To Gorham Day

Many alumni were present at the first Back to Gorham Day, popularly dubbed "Back to Normal," held Saturday, February nineteenth.

The plan was originated by "Gus" Higgins member of the fourth year class, and was under the direction of Miss Hilda McLain, who was general chairman, and whose efforts made the day a success.

Other students taking part in arrangements were: Edith Lewis, chairman of the dinner committee, assisted by Helen and Evelyn Lord; David McAllister, chairman of the invitation committee, assisted by Mary Sylvester and Donald Cressey; Barbara Stiles, chairman of the school rally and sing committee, assisted by Miss Miriam Andrews, Arthur Boswell, Margaret Johnson, and Lorraine Fitzpatrick; and John Ham in charge of publicity.

A Round Table Discussion held in Corthell Hall Library from two to four in the afternoon, led by Dr. Russell, seemed most worthwhile and beneficial. Such problems as how to find varied and interesting seatwork, how to deal with exceptional children, and means of coping with the "don't care" attitude were among those discussed and attempts made at solution. The faculty, taking the lead, offered many suggestions followed by contribution from various members of the group. Mr. Kenneth Brooks of the class of 1937 has certainly found a solution to the fighting problem among boys; remember his remedy. If you are confronted with the same difficulty, give them boxing gloves and let them settle their disagreements under supervision.

At four o'clock in Russell Hall Auditorium we participated in a varied program of songs and cheers ranging from "She'll Be Coming Round the Moun-

Eastern States Convention April seventh, eighth, and ninth



Rose Flanagan

Grace Perry

Gertrude Baker

tain's" to "Home on the Range," to say nothing of Mr. Boswell's fine solos. At five o'clock the alumni were conducted to the art studio, where they were shown, by competent guides, a very interesting art exhibition.

Over two hundred guests enjoyed a delicious meal in the attractively decorated dining room, at East Hall. Dr. Russell spoke a few words of welcome to the guests.

From the snatches of conversation heard, the most significant words spoken were: "Oh it seems so good to be back."

"Licketv-Split Express" Carries Good Will Message

Miss Abbie Buck, Director of the Maine School Health Department is assisting the Poetry Club in a unique plan by which the Christmas boxes sent out by the Club may give more lasting pleasure.

Among the gifts to be distributed to needy children in some of the rural schools of Maine, the Poetry Club received a fine train, and a large, beautifully dressed baby doll. These toys were not packed in school boxes, but were sent to Miss Buck, to be disposed of as she thought best.

In accordance with Miss Buck's plan, the doll and train are to be sent from one school to another throughout the state, remaining in each school several weeks, and then sent on to another school. To date the Club has received letters from two rural schools. The children have written, telling of their pleasure in having the toys in school and of the care they have taken of them.

The Club was asked by Miss Buck to name the toys, and so the doll bears the name of "Joy" and the train is the "Licketv-Split Express."

The doll was presented to the Club by Burt Whitehouse's mother, and her generous gift will be appreciated by hundreds of children.

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Three Girls Chosen For New York Convention

For the election of delegates to the Eastern States Convention, the Civic Committee presented a ballot to the student body to be voted on which included the names of two young men and two young women from each of the three upper classes. The results are as follows: Miss Grace Perry from the fourth year class, Miss Gertrude Baker from the third year class, and Miss Rose Flannigan from the second year class. These girls will go to New York City where the convention is to be held on April seventh, eighth and ninth. The faculty representatives are Miss Keene and Miss Upton

Fraternity Notes

Alpha Lambda Beta

The visiting Hyannis Basketball squad, coach, and faculty advisor were entertained by the Alpha Lambda Beta Fraternity on Jan. 8 at a banquet in East Hall. The visitors were nobly feted and much impressed by Gorham's hospitality.

Arrangements have been made for the annual fraternity initiation and the committee having charge of the ceremony is composed of the following seniors: Warren Hill, Lawrence Ray, and Stanley Reed. The pledges and their antics will undoubtedly be a constant source of amusement and consternation to both themselves and others.

All non-fraternity members of the school were entertained by the fraternity February 21 at an evening Get-Together. The seventy-five persons present participated in basketball, volley ball, ping-pong, and other games. Among the guest speakers were Mr. Brown and Mr. Weiden. Refreshments were served and the true spirit of comradeship was evident throughout the whole evening's program.

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EDITORIAL

One Down—Three to Go

Football? No, certainly not, "Out of season," we would say. Then what is in season all year round? It can be said in two words, but mere words cannot describe the results of it. Automobile accidents.

On all sides today we hear of this comparatively new menace, and it is only during the last few years that the appalling number of automobile accidents has been brought to public attention. There has been a real and concentrated effort, especially during the last few months, to make the public safety-conscious. We have radio programs, lectures, movies, and printed material, all sponsored in the interests of safety on the highway. One of the outstanding recent efforts of the safety societies is the organization of school children into safety patrols, with stringent rules regarding intersection crossings, and general pedestrian caution. This is a well directed move as it trains the children in safety habits at an age where they will readily be absorbed. We may say, as many do, that the safety problem is one for the authorities and statisticians to worry about. Yet, when we consider the much publicized fact that more people are killed in one year by auto accidents than in the entire World War, we begin to realize the enormity of the situation.

The causes of highway accidents are often divided by statisticians into five main types, fatigue, carelessness, driving under the influence of liquor, faulty equipment, and speed. The relative order of importance is a moot question but it is certain that they all need to be remedied.

We are all guilty of driving when fatigued, although this is especially prevalent among commercial drivers. Steady driving for a number of hours robs the driver of full possession of all his faculties. It slows down the mental processes and normal reactions immeasurably, and this alone causes many accidents yearly.

Little need be said about driving at excess speeds. Everyone knows how uncertain is one's full control of a speeding mechanical monster. Things happen too fast for the driver to obviate all chance of disaster at high speeds.

Of modern mechanical improvements, the mental and physical condition of the driver is too important a factor to allow one in all honesty to say, for instance, that the present highly efficient braking system can guarantee safety. As for shatter-proof glass, although it has diminished certain phases of injuries, **Of Sudden Death** gives a vivid picture of what can happen still. "Came a rending crash. The passenger was catapulted forward, the body shot through the windshield neatly decapitated, leaving a fairly smooth hole in the stuff."

The fifth and most serious cause is drunken driving. It has become the most serious one because of its prevalence and because of the many lives it endangers. Someone has said, "The greatest fool is a drunken fool;" this is entirely applicable on the highway. The results of mixing liquor with driving may best be illustrated by a brief account of a recent accident.

A beautiful, new car, sleek, and powerful, roared down the highway with the needle hovering at eighty-five. It was evening and visibility was further marred by a light, swirling mist. Down the road came a motorcycle traveling at

Prayer For Living

Peace for the dead, who, lying there
No longer dream; no longer love
Nor see warm summer skies above
Or gray, when winter boughs are bare
War and plunder among these lands,
Famine, disaster, death and pain
We pray for the dead, whose empty hands
Will never feel life's pulse again.
While here in the world, the lust to kill,
And, grief, despair, and terror are.
Peace for the dead, who, cold and still
Will never see first even-star.
The dead have peace, Oh, Lord, but give
More peace, we pray to those who live.

Mary Hodgkins

a breakneck pace. Both were in the center of the road, conditions were ideal, and a crash was inevitable.

Both the car and the motorcycle were completely demolished, the five occupants were all killed, but ironically enough, on the rear seat of the car were found four bottles, each with a brightly decorated label, one empty, and three intact. Drunken driving and a clear case of "One Down, Three To Go."

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The fraternity plans to sponsor a minstrel show in April. They have a roster of black-faced comics with many and varied accomplishments. Much material has been uncovered concerning school life and should add spice to the program. Everyone with the wherewithal required for admission can view this parade of talent and super-spectacular comedy during the second week of the last quarter.

Lambda Pi Sigma

Initiation of pledgees into the Fraternity was officially started Friday afternoon, February 25, when, having filed affiliation intentions the day previous, the following members of the non-fraternity group signed with the Sigma Frat: Ray Austin, Standish; Hugh Comber, Caratunk; William Boland, William Carey, Joseph Castelucci, Donald Lindsey, and John Mrowka of Portland; John Hartford, Gloucester; Kenneth Coleman, Ellsworth; Harold Charlton, Gorham; Eugene Pernaveau, Providence, R. I.; Jerome Sweet, Hull's Cove; George De Lorme, Gray; Robert Trask, Camden; and Paul Roberts, Brownville Junction. Instructions were issued the following noon.

Sigma was privileged to entertain the members of the Aroostook State Normal School basketball squad of Presque Isle on Saturday evening, February 26, in East Hall Dining Room. The squad was accompanied by one member of the Presque Isle faculty, Mr. Crouse. The banquet was under the able supervision of the Chairman of Entertainment Committee, Carrol Rich. Speeches were made after a delicious chicken dinner was served. Mr. Ray Burnett, Presque Isle Coach, delivered the first speech, with Mr. Crouse, Mr. Louis Jensen, Gorham Coach, and Mr. C. O. T. Weiden, Athletic Supervisor, following. Decorations were in the Fraternity colors, orange and black.

Sigma members are reviving an old custom this year, in printing a small booklet which will reveal some of the inside facts about the Fraternity. This book, it is hoped, will be bigger and better than any other Sigma edition.

Has Lead In Play



George Albert

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Stage Properties—Betty Tufts and Jean MacDougal; Hand Properties—Dorothy Leavitt; Make-Up—Arthur Boswell and Miss Vietrie; Stage Management—Lawrence Bridgham and Lorraine Landry; Scenery—John Brush and Raymond Hillman.

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Girls' Volley Ball

About forty young women have come out for volley ball these past two weeks. Both the unique announcements given in chapel, and the worthwhile awards that can be attained have served to arouse interest.

This year for the first time, a certificate, and numerals, which by the way are now green on a white background instead of the usual white alone, are to be given for 25 points. A large six inch square block letter G is to be given for the first time to young women for only 150 points. The monogram formerly awarded for 200 points has been eliminated. Then for the grand total of 300 points, a pin will be awarded. Few have received the pin, but these three awards are certainly worth trying for.

There are more third year people out for volley ball this year. You other classes better get busy, for soon class teams are to be chosen, and you will remember that a cup is received by the winning team.

At the next Women's Athletic Association meeting which we hope all will attend, all awards will be given.

There are four captains, Jeanette Billings, Agnes Bickford, Gertrude Chick, and Elva Murray.

After the class games are played, an honorary varsity team will be announced at the annual banquet in East Hall dining room.

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Continued from Page One, Column Two

Following are excerpts from two children's letters:

"We feel very proud to have been chosen by Miss Buck as the first school of Maine to receive these toys. We are taking the best of care of them. There are forty-four of us in the school. We are wondering what name you have chosen for the doll and train. We had some ideas for name, too."

"We intend that the doll shall have more clothes when she leaves us than when she came. We think the clothes she had were very nice, but she needs more."

"We hate to have the doll and train go, perhaps we can earn the money in some way to buy us toys to keep here all the time."

Suggested Reading List

Great is the need today for good literature, but greater still is the need that more people, young and old alike, engage in reading that which is available. To broaden our horizons of thought and outlook as students, we would do well to read more worth while literature. We thereby give to the strictly fundamental and barren facts of our textbook knowledge a flavor of human experience, which will give us a background on which to base future knowledge.

With the cooperation of the Faculty and in answer to requests, the "Oracle" publishes for your benefit a list of excellent books. This list is not complete but to be continued in the next issue of the "Oracle."

- Miss Lewis
 Kristin Lavrensdatter Sigrid Unset
 Inheritance Phyllis Bently
 Old Wives' Tale Arnold Bennett
 Forsyte Saga John Galsworthy
 Giants in the Earth
 The Good Earth Ole Edvart Rølvaag
 Growth of the Soil Pearl Buck
 Miss Hale Knute Hamsun
 Gone With the Wind
 Margaret Mitchell
 North to the Orient
 Ann Morrow-Lindbergh
 Flowering of New England
 Van Wyck Tyne
 Miss Vietrie
 Citadel A. J. Cronin
 400,000,000 Customers Crow
 The Years Virginia Wolfe
 Mr. Wieden
 An American Doctor's Odessey
 Victor Heiser, M.D.
 Northwest Passage Kenneth Roberts
 Mr. Jensen
 Mathematics for the Millions
 Lancelot Hogben
 Mr. Sloot
 Buckskin Breeches Phil Stong
 The Arts Van de Loon
 The Nile Emil Ludwig
 And So—Victoria Vaughan Wilkins
 Miss Eames
 An Almanac for Moderns Peatie
 The Human Comedy
 James Harvey Robinson
 My Antonia Willa Cather
 The Good Companions J. B. Priestly
 The Edwardians B. Sackville West

Thursday, February 10, 1938

Dear Diary,

Today at four o'clock I visited a dance pageant presented by the C1 Class in Physical Education. The scene was a hearth where a girl and boy came in, yawned, played a little with their toys, and finally curled up and fell asleep.

As they slept, French dolls tripped lightly in to dance a scarf dance. When they had finished, Swedish dolls dressed in full skirts, black bodices, blouses, and caps danced an old Swedish dance, "Blekning."

The funniest of all were the Jack-in-the-Boxes. Many others followed including Danish boys, the spiritual sailors to do the Sailor's Hornpipe, the Rag Dolls, and the German Dolls.

One of the high spots came when the Scotch Laddies did the Highland Fling dressed in full Scotch costume.

As a climax came the pompous Tin Soldiers with their admiring Paper Dolls who led the grand march with everyone

The "Oracle" was gratified to have student response to this column as it appeared in the last issue. We are glad to announce that our choice of persons herein discussed was influenced by student suggestions. If any student wishes to read about an outstanding acquaintance, just give that person's name, in the near future, to the Editor of the "Oracle."

Ann Gardner

We need not formally introduce Ann, for she is one of the most active members of our student body. It is doubtful if there is a student in school who does not know Ann Gardner.

As an athlete, Ann is outstanding. She has made varsity in all the sports and is the star pitcher of her class. In her second year Ann was basketball councillor.

Last spring Ann received the singular honor of being awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship. Also, in 1937, she was one of the delegates to the Boston Convention.

Probably the capacity in which she is acting at present, that of president of the Civic Committee, is one in which she is doing her most outstanding service for G. N. S. In this office she not only greeted the Freshmen on the first day of school, but also presided over Superintendents' and Principals' Day activities.

As you have by now concluded, Miss Gardner is not only a good student but has a variety of interests, indicative of the well-rounded personality. May we suggest that if you have any "pet" topic, (on almost any subject), that you would like to discuss or even debate, you will find no person, in our range of acquaintance, more capable or more interesting to talk with. Ask anyone who has commuted with Ann.

joining in and holding flags representative of their various nations.

They marched off as the boy and girl woke up, gathered some of their toys, and left the stage.

Dear Diary, I think the C1 Class is to be complimented on its success in presenting a colorful and enjoyable pageant.

Back to Gorham Day

Among those alumni who are teaching this year and seen around the campus on "Back to Gorham Day" were:

Class of '37

Elizabeth Kelley, Cumberland; Howard Libby, Waterboro; Sara McAllister,



Ann Gardner



"Spin" Hill

In the spring this young man's fancy turns to thoughts of fishing,—especially during class periods! If you don't believe this about "Spin" just ask his inseparable friend, Eddie Jess—we did.

And, incidentally, since "Spring" can't be far behind, we also have visions of said Mr. Hill "leapin' from bush to bush" as the season advances.

But to get back to the "Why" of "Spin's" appearance in this column, may we enumerate some of his many activities and services during his three years at Gorham. As a commuter, his membership in the Commuter's Club has been one of true service. The Alpha Lambda Beta Fraternity is also proud of his membership.

Since his arrival at Gorham from nearby Buxton, he has been a basketball player of the first rank,—a letter-man and this year coach of the Junior Varsity. We are anticipating his reappearance on the team next year. His noticed absence this season was due to an injury received in practice.

Latest reports find "Spin" acting on the Initiation Committee for the Freshmen, and carrying on his usual part in noontime corridor activities. We are happy to announce he is a tentative member of the second fourth year class in the history of Gorham Normal School.

Edythe Newcomb, a member of the third year class, has been brought to our attention because of her artistic ability, holding the position of Treasurer in the Art Club. Among her other interests are archery and books as revealed by the fact that she is an active member of the Library Club and the Archery team.

Gorham; Frances Merrill, South Acton; Ruth Palmer, Ogunquit; Claire Quimby, Newry; Ruby Steere, South Portland; Kenneth Brooks, North Anson; Stanley Gay, South Thomaston; Catherine Joyce, Auburn; Almerly Hamblen, Gray; Eleanor Buck, Intervale; Phyllis Allen, Auburn; Frances Batty, South Portland, Ada Senioe, Bingham; Jean Langdon, Augusta; Eleanor Thomas, Gorham.

Class of '36

Mary Lovejoy, Augusta; Emma Martin, South Portland; Leslie Ross, Biddeford; Eleanor Parker, Augusta; Marion Young, Redstone, N. H.; Lena Dow, Rochester, N. H.; Edwin Bachelder, Cape Elizabeth; Wilbert Hayes, Pownal.

Class of '35

Faith Graves, Augusta; Madaline Doten, Cape Elizabeth; Ruth Bailey,

NEW ENGLAND CHAMPS



Front, left to right—Gerber, Ham, Webb, Capt. Austin, Knapton, Higgins.
Beck—Mgr. Reed, Rines, Gilley, Van Blaricum, Baldwin, Charlton, Coach Jensen.

Gorham Normal's basketball team this season amassed the best court record in the history of the school. They clinched the championship of the New England Teacher's College Conference, the first time any team had ever beaten the Connecticut Teachers College in this race.

The quintet this year was under the tutelage of a new mentor, Louis Jensen of Westbrook, a former Gorham Normal athlete, and a graduate of Boston University.

The outstanding feat turned in by the Gorham hoopsters this year was the 47 to 39 defeat they handed the Connecticut Teachers College at New Britain, Conn., early in the year. It was the first conference loss that the Connecticut school had suffered in five years of conference play. This is the first year that any other team but this Connecticut aggregation has ever won the championship of the conference.

This year's team was led by Capt. Cal Austin, cool and steady guard. His heads-up play kept the team under control all year. Johnny Ham at left forward proved to be a heavy scorer. Phil Gerber at the other forward post was undoubtedly the key man of the team, his inspired play and great follow-up work pulling Gorham through many tough ones. Chuck Higgins, who played both at guard and forward during the season, stood out for his grand floor work. Although he scored relatively few points, he did great work all year in feeding the point gatherers. "Bones" Knapton at center, displayed a great eye all season, but his outstanding feat was in the Salem game when he got "hot" in the second half, filling the hoop, to score 21 points and clinch the game. The other regular was Dwight Webb, rugged defense man and one of the cleverest dribblers in this locality.

The reserve five which saw action as a

unit in most of the games included "Skip" Rines and "Ped" Gilley at forwards; Paul Baldwin at center; and Harold Charlton and Bill Van Blaricum at guards.

Four members of this year's championship team, Ham, Higgins, Rines, and Webb, will be lost through graduation. Three regulars will be back next year, Gerber, Austin and Knapton, and four reserves, Gilley, Baldwin, Charlton and Van Blaricum. Three strong members of this year's successful Jayvee team will return to bolster next year's aggregation. They are Austin's younger brother, Ray Austin, Joe Castellucci and Ralph Hanson. The first two are freshmen and Hanson is a second year man.

The Jayvees under Coach "Swin" Hill, injured Senior basketballer, also piled up an impressive record. They defeated the Portland Junior College Reserves, Kennebunk, Falmouth, Buxton and Scarborough High Schools on the Gorham court, while they gained two victories over Standish High, one here and one away. They lost to Gorham and Limerick High Schools. Coach Hill had as members of his squad, "Ray" Austin, Hanson, Castellucci, Corrigan, Cambridge, Doyle, Greer, Hillman and Bowie.

Green Spotlight

EDDIE JESS * * For the last two years, Eddie has been the pacemaker for Gorham's cross country teams. Again this year, despite an injured ankle and a lack of sufficient practice and training, due to his practice teaching in Westbrook, Eddie has led the team in nearly every run. Quiet and unassuming, Eddie Jess is one of the most popular boys in school. His graduation will be a heavy

loss to the cross country squad.

GEORGE MEE * * A Senior, he reported for cross country this year for the first time. Despite his lack of experience, George managed to make the varsity.

Have you noticed—Capt. Austin's cool, level-headed leadership on the floor: Phil Gerbers scrap and great work "off the boards"; "Chucky" Higgins' beautiful floor work; Johnny Ham's ability to spin them into that old hoop; "Bones" Knapton's uncanny eye for the basket; "Buster" Webb's ball handling and dribbling wizardry? Have you ever stopped to realize that although the Varsity reserve five sees relatively little action on game nights, they have to put in long hours of practice and take numerous physical beatings from the regular five in practice scrimmages. The fans always seem to get a great kick out of "Buster" Webb's play, especially that sheepish look of his when he makes a foul. "Pinkv" Hillman, J.V. Speedster, also keeps the crowd on edge, as he just can't seem to keep his nose away from that wall at the end of the gym.

John Ham, Gus Higgins, and Dwight Webb . . . these three men, all former captains, returned to school this year and proved themselves equal to the tremendous task of becoming followers after having been leaders. Not only were they former captains but they were a class ahead of their leader. Less worthy men than these could not have faced the situation and given the co-operation and assistance to coach and captain that they did. For their success in establishing and holding this attitude of co-operation they deserve loads of praise.